

Pam Coburn
Contact Info:
<https://www.pamcoburn.com/media.html>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**As the 90th anniversary of Boston Bruins' first Stanley Cup win approaches,
a new book about the captain of that team is released:**

Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero: The Story of Boston Bruin Lionel Hitchman, by Pam Coburn

MANOTICK, ON, March 21, 2019—The Boston Bruins swept the playoffs in five straight games, winning the Stanley Cup on March 29, 1929. The preeminent sportswriter of that era, Elmer Ferguson, declared that Lionel Hitchman, “swung the issue” for Boston during that series.

The following season, Boston had the NHL's best winning point percentage of all time, and Ferguson in casting his Hart trophy ballot for Hitchman called him the “greatest defensive” defenceman of his day.

Hockey historian Eric Zweig stated in his book *Art Ross: The Hockey Legend Who Built the Bruins*, that Hitchman is “perhaps the greatest player in NHL history who is *not* in the Hockey Hall of Fame.” Pam Coburn is Hitch's granddaughter, and after extensive research, she came to the same conclusion and made it the central theme of her new book, *Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero*.

“The story is told through the ‘scribes’ of the day with interjections by some notable people who knew Hitch well,” said Coburn. “A few family tales are revealed, including one that helps explain Hitch's absence from hockey's highest shrine.”

“. . .Pam Coburn's biography of her grandfather does more than tell the story of a hockey player, it tells the story of the man that Lionel Hitchman was. Perhaps it will even be enough to finally bring this prototypical defensive defenseman his long overdue place in the Hockey Hall of Fame,” said Zweig.

Brian McFarlane noted hockey broadcaster, writer and historian added this about Coburn's book: “A great read about one of hockey's unsung heroes. Like Lorne Chabot and one or two other long ago champions, Hitch should be a hockey Hall of Famer.”

Adam Findlay who reviewed the book for clarity of hockey terminology commented that it has: “a flow and rhythm that I did not expect, and that is very charming. I think this makes it appealing to a much wider audience, and an important contribution to the sports literature.”

Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero: The Story of Lionel Hitchman is currently available through amazon in paperback and ebook at <https://www.amazon.com/author/pamcoburn>

About the Author: Pam Coburn has just written her first book, ***Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero***, a biography about her grandfather, Lionel Hitchman, the first player to have his sweater retired by the Boston Bruins. To chronicle this untold story, she immersed herself in the world of hockey from a bygone era.

In her younger days, Pam played some hockey, but as a figure skating coach, she spent more time helping hockey players improve their skating skills. She also played varsity basketball at the University of Ottawa. Transferring to LaSalle College in Philadelphia, Pam continued to coach skating while completing a business degree.

After returning to Canada, she took on progressively complex management positions and spent nearly ten-years at Skate Canada as Executive Director and CEO. Pam currently owns her own firm, specializing in digital communications.

Information Sheet on *Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero* is attached.

###

Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero: The Story of Boston Bruin Lionel Hitchman

In time for the 90th anniversary of Boston Bruins' first Stanley Cup win, a new book about the captain of that team!

Hockey historian and author **Eric Zweig** stated in his book *Art Ross: The Hockey Legend Who Built the Bruins*, that Lionel Hitchman (Hitch) is "perhaps the greatest player in NHL history who is *not* in the Hockey Hall of Fame." Pam Coburn is Hitch's granddaughter, and after extensive research, she came to the same conclusion and made it the central theme of her first book, *Hitch, Hockey's Unsung Hero*.

Hitch played 12 seasons in the NHL. First on the 1923 Ottawa Senators Stanley Cup team, and then with the Boston Bruins for ten seasons.

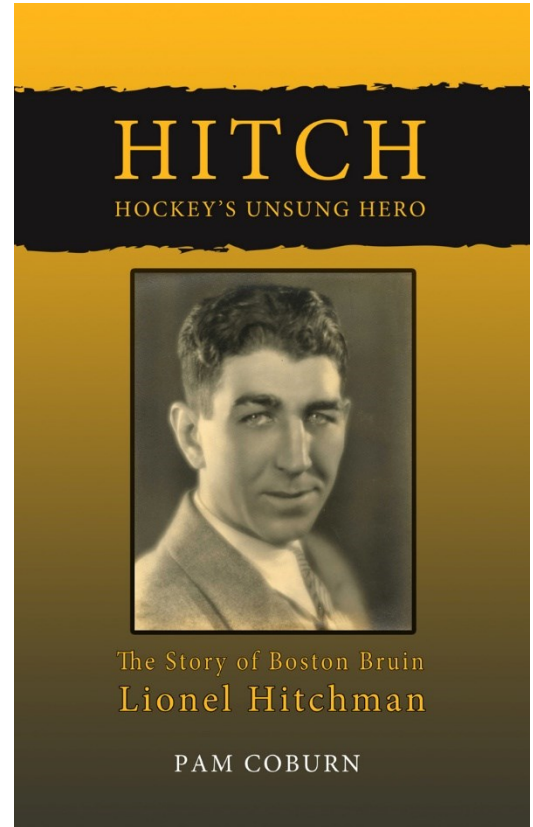
His hockey stats belie his real contribution to the success of the Boston Bruins. As captain, he led the Bruins, to their first run at the Stanley Cup, first championship and best winning season of all time. He was the first to have his sweater retired by the Bruins. Yet he goes unrecognized by hockey's highest shrine, even though Elmer Ferguson, the preeminent sportswriter called him the "greatest defensive" defenseman of his day. This story brings this "superstar" out from the shadows of his defense partner, the fabled Eddie Shore, as told by the "scribes" of the day.

"A great read about one of hockey's unsung heroes . . ."—noted broadcaster, author and hockey historian, **Brian McFarlane**.

" . . . Pam Coburn's biography of her grandfather does more than tell the story of a hockey player, it tells the story of the man that Lionel Hitchman was. Perhaps it will even be enough to finally bring this prototypical defensive defenseman his long overdue place in the Hockey Hall of Fame," said Zweig.

Adam Findlay who reviewed the book for clarity of hockey terminology commented that it has: "a flow and rhythm that I did not expect, and that is very charming. I think this makes it appealing to a much wider audience, and an important contribution to the sports literature." At a minimum, those interested in the history of hockey during this pivotal time in the development of the NHL and its intersection with the greater social fabric of the early twentieth century will enjoy this book.

About Pam Coburn: This is Pam's first book, a perfect choice. Hitch's story was ever present in her family, but not well known elsewhere, even though he was a compelling and larger than life character. Through the stories told to her and unveiled by her grandparents' meticulous records; and the lens of a ten-year sports management career, she breathes life into this significant time in hockey's history.



Available from:

Amazon.com: Paperback \$16.95 US, Ebook \$7.95 US

Amazon.ca: Paperback (CDN equivalent of US price), Ebook \$9.99 CDN